



BRECON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year 1950.

Officials. Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R. George, M.R.C.S.
L.R.C.P.
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.....W.J. Roes,
Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's
Examination Joint Board; Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the
Royal Sanitary Institute; Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public
Health Hygiene.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.....E.D. Grant,
Associate of the Royal
Sanitary Institute. Member of the Sanitary Inspector's Association.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.1950.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Brecon Rural District for the year 1950.

The arrangement of the report is in accordance with the directions contained in Circular 112/50 (Wales), issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.
Statistical Summary for the year 1950.

Area.....189,532 acres.
 Population (Census 1931).....8,302.
 Population (Estimated at Midsummer, 1950).....7,178.
 Number of inhabited houses.....2,205.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate.	54.	58.	112.	
Illegitimate.	<u>3.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>4.</u>	
	57.	59.	116.	16.1
Still Births.	2.	1.	3.	0.41
Deaths from all causes.	40.	51.	91.	12.9.

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under one year;

All infants.....2. Rate per 1000 live births.....17.1
 Legitimate infants.....2.

Deaths from special causes;

Infectious disease.....0.
 Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....1.
 Other tubercular disease.....1.
 Cancer.....12.

Area.

The Rural District of Breconshire, which has an area of 189,532 acres, is a large district in the County of Breconshire. The district is situated mainly in the northern part of the County and consists of rather more than one third of the total size of the whole county.

The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the inhabitants.

There are no large towns in the area and the administrative offices are situated in the Borough of Brecon.

Population. Census, 1931.....8302.

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
7775.	8238.	7699.	7298.	6980.	7057.	7074.	7065.	7113.	7042.	7178.

Brecon Rural District.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.

It would appear that the population has dropped considerably since the last census was taken.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 2205 giving an average number of 3.2 persons per house. The above population figure includes members of the armed forces stationed in the area..

<u>Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	62.....	63.....	125.....	16.8.
1941.....	51.....	50.....	101.....	12.2.
1942.....	71.....	54.....	125.....	16.3.
1943.....	52.....	57.....	109.....	14.9.
1944.....	82.....	60.....	142.....	20.3.
1945.....	53.....	52.....	105.....	14.8.
1946.....	71.....	60.....	131.....	18.4.
1947.....	58.....	68.....	126.....	17.8.
1948.....	74.....	62.....	136.....	19.1.
1949.....	55.....	54.....	109.....	15.5.
1950.....	57.....	59.....	116.....	16.1.
England and Wales, 1950.....				15.8.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths.

After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table;

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	55.....	51.....	106.....	13.6
1941.....	45.....	53.....	103.....	12.5
1942.....	49.....	52.....	101.....	13.2
1943.....	40.....	49.....	89.....	12.2
1944.....	36.....	56.....	92.....	13.2
1945.....	51.....	55.....	106.....	15.0
1946.....	43.....	42.....	85.....	12.0
1947.....	41.....	39.....	80.....	11.3
1948.....	45.....	38.....	83.....	11.6
1949.....	38.....	31.....	69.....	9.8.
1950.....	40.....	51.....	91.....	12.9.
England and Wales, 1950.....				11.6

The deathrate for 1950 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales, but was very much lower than the birthrate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	4.....	1.....	5.....	0.6
1941.....	3.....	3.....	6.....	0.7
1942.....	6.....	3.....	9.....	1.1
1943.....	1.....	5.....	6.....	0.8
1944.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	0.3
1945.....	0.....	1.....	1.....	0.1
1946.....	1.....	4.....	5.....	0.71
1947.....	4.....	3.....	7.....	0.90
1948.....	4.....	4.....	8.....	1.1
1949.....	3.....	1.....	4.....	0.57
1950.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.41
England and Wales, 1950.....				0.37

The stillbirth rate was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Brecon Rural District.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	6	5	11	88.
1941.....	6	3	9	89.
1942.....	3	3	6	48.
1943.....	0	1	1	9.
1944.....	2	4	6	42.
1945.....	3	4	7	66.
1946.....	1	1	2	15.
1947.....	3	4	7	55.
1948.....	4	1	5	36.
1949.....	2	0	2	18.
1950.....	1	1	2	17.1
England and Wales, 1950.....				29.8

The infantile mortality rate was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales. One of these deaths occurred in a child of under 4 weeks old.

<u>Analysis of Causes of Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.....40</u>	<u>Females.....51.</u>
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.....	0	1
Tuberculosis, other.....	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0	1
Other malignant neoplasms.....	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	6	13
Coronary disease.....	10	6
Other heart disease.....	4	8
Other circulatory disease.....	1	3
Pneumonia.....	1	0
Bronchitis.....	2	2
Other diseases, respiratory system.....	0	1
Ulcer stomach and duodenum.....	1	0
Nephritis.....	1	1
Congenital malformations.....	0	1
Motor accidents.....	4	0
All other accidents.....	2	0
Suicide.....	0	1
Homicide and operation of war.....	1	0
All other causes.....	2	6

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the district was four.

Maternal Mortality. There was no death during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. There were no changes in your Public Health Officers during the year, Mr. W. J. Rees remaining as your Chief Sanitary Inspector and Mr. E. D. Grant as your additional Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Analyst at Carmarthen and to the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling including milk examined for the presence of tuberculosis was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes were operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council are responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and make use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Morthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council are responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations are whole time employees of the County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics administered by the County Council are held regularly in Brecon and Sennybridge. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental and eye defects and orthopaedic defects are available at the County Health Offices, Brecon. These are administered by the County Council.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of patients are also treated in the large hospitals situated in Cardiff and Swansea.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Morthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Morthyr in ambulances maintained by Morthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fedw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental treatment, orthopaedic treatment, visual defects and expectant mothers. Provision is also made for free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies. Water is derived for domestic and other purposes in the district from 32 Council supplies, private supplies wells and springs.

Generally speaking, it is safe to say that the supply of water is poor, none of the supplies being chlorinated and only one filtered.

During the year, 119 inspections of public and private supplies were carried out. The water from public supplies was sampled bacteriologically on 19 occasions giving 10 satisfactory and 9 unsatisfactory results. Three satisfactory chemical samples were also obtained. In view of the unsatisfactory samples from Sarnau supply, the Council have placed an order for a Patterson chlorinator for use in this supply.

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples, investigations were made and remedial action carried out until check samples proved satisfactory.

73 samples of private supplies were taken and, of these, 32 were found to be satisfactory and 41 unsatisfactory. The majority of these samples were taken at the request of the Breconshire Agricultural Executive Committee in support of grant aided schemes for the provision of water to individual remises

In all cases the Committee and the owners of the supplies were advised of the results of the analyses.

The preparation of Engineering details etc. for the Council's major water scheme continued during the year.

Water Supplies Improved, Augmented etc.

The following work was carried out during the year:-

1. Extension of water mains to Housing Sites in the villages of Felinfach, Llangorse and Llanfillo.
2. Renewal of water main in Nantygwreiddyn.
3. Provision of temporary supply for the village of Senni, which included the construction of a storage tank and the laying of approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " asbestos main.

Details of water supplies in district

Parish	Whether Public Supply Available	Houses with water laid on.	Population served with water laid on.	Houses served by stand-pipes	Population served with water from standpipes
Aberyscir	Aberbran	5	10	None	10
Battle	No	None	None	None	None
Cantref	No	None	None	None	None
Cathedine	Cathedine	8	24	None	None
	Bwlch	6	18	4	12
Cray	Cray	12	36	None	None
	Penyrynys	2	6	6	18
Fennifach	No	None	None	None	None
Garthbrengy	No	None	None	None	None
Glyn	Libanus	2	6	6	18

Parish	Whether public supply available	Houses with water laid on.	Population served with water laid on.	Houses served by stand- pipes	Population served with water from standpipes.
Glyntawo	Penwyllt	1	4	11	33
Llandetty)	Talybont	34	110	46	170
Llanfigan)	Pencelly	10	30	4	12
	Aber	3	9	6	18
Llanddew	Llanddew	10	37	6	21
Llandefaelog- fach	Pwllgloyw Sarnau	3 None	15 None	3 10	9 30
Llandefalle	No	None	None	None	None
Llandilorfán	No	None	None	None	None
Llanfihangel Fechan	Lower Chapel	1	4	7	21
Llanfihangel Nant-Bran	Llanfihangel Nant-Bran. Soar	1 1	4 4	8 6	17 18
Llanfihangel Talyllyn	Llanfigangel Talyllyn	10	30	6	18
Llanfillo	Llanfillo	4	12	8	24
Llanfrynach	Llanfrynach	17	73	33	95
Llangasty Talyllyn	Penorth	8	24	4	12
Llangorse	Llangorse	42	140	10	29
Llanhamlach	Groesfford Llechfaen	None None	None None	4 16	12 48
Llansant- ffraed.	Scethrog	6	20	6	20
Llanspyddid	No	None	None	None	None
Llanwern	No	None	None	None	None
Maescar	Yes	140	405	44	114
Merthyr Cynog	Yes	None	None	6	18
	Pontfaen	None	None	6	18
	Upper Chapel	3	9	5	15
Modrydd	No	None	None	None	None
Penpont	No	None	None	None	None
St. Davids					
Without	No	None	None	None	None
Senny	Yes	3	15	3	10
Talachddu	Talachddu	11	33	1	2
	Felinfach				
Traianglas)					
Traianmawr)	Trecastle	50	150	27	79
Trallong	Trallong	1	3	6	18
Yselydach	Pentrefelin	None	None	8	24

Of the Council's 32 supplies only 11 can be considered adequate for the immediate needs of the inhabitants for domestic purposes, and only those of Sennybridge and Devynock, Llanfrynach, Trecastle and Llangorse are adequate for a proper drainage scheme.

It will be seen from the above that adequate and wholesome supplies of water are very badly needed and every effort is being made to complete the preparation of the major scheme.

Drainage and Sewerage. Modern Methods of sewage disposal, at least for the larger villages in the district, is still a matter of some urgency, the villages of Sennybridge and Devynock being the only ones with a sewerage scheme.

The sewerage scheme for Talybont was continued during the year and is proceeding slowly but satisfactorily.

Preparatory details for sewerage schemes for the villages of Llangorse, Llanfrynach and Llanddew were continued during the year.

Number of visits by Sanitary Inspector.....112.

Public Cleansing. The collection and disposal of household refuse has been carried out during the year by contract labour under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. A comprehensive scheme for the removal of refuse is now therefore in operation throughout the district.

The Council is at present maintaining 4 refuse tips, i.e. Sennybridge, Trecastle, Llanfihangel-Talyllyn and Talybont. These are, however, filling rapidly and the securing of new tipping sites is likely to become urgent.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr W.J. Rees, and the additional Sanitary Inspector Mr E.D. Grant.

The following summary gives information relating to the work of the sanitary inspectors during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	70.
Number of complaints investigated.....	70.
Number of premises inspected.....	53.
Number of preliminary notices.....	37.
for (a) Structural defects.....	16.
(b) Sanitary defects.....	21.
Number of statutory notices served.....	8.

There has been great difficulty during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. At present repair work is largely of a patching nature and it is to be hoped that a greater supply of material will soon be available for the repair of domestic property to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature to require control under byelaws made under section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises. Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector..114.
 Number of defects.....8.
 All the defects were remedied by informal action.

Shops. Number of inspections made.....66.

Factories. A complete survey of the factories in the district was carried out with the following results:-

a. Factories in which the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature etc., are enforceable by the Council.....8.
 b. Factories in which the provisions relating to sanitary conveniences only are enforceable by the Council.....17.
 Total number of factories.....25.
 Total number of inspections made.....79.
 Total number of defects found (want of cleanliness).....7.
 Number of defects remedied.....7.

Tents, Vans and Sheds. Number of visits made.....84.

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D,D.T. preparations which have been found to be very successful.
 No premises were found infested during the year.

Rodent Control. Mr J.C.Reynolds is still employed as the Rodent Officer to carry out the work of rodent destruction under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.
 Details of the work carried out are given below;

Number of premises inspected.....731.
 Number of premises found infested.....115.
 Number of agricultural premises found infested.....48.
 Number of premises treated by Rodent Officer.....83.
 Number of premises treated by occupier.....20.
 Number of premises treated by B.A.E.C.....10.
 Number of notices served.....16.

No sewer treatment as such was carried out during the year but manholes near premises which were being treated in Sennybridge and Devynock were baited, with negative results, in June and July and also later in the year,

Section 5 Housing. The following details show the housing position as it was at the end of the year.

Number of sites developed since war and prior to 1950.....5.
 Number of houses built by Council.....50.
 Number of houses built by private enterprise.....9.

No further houses were completed during the year but work was commenced in Llanfrynach (6 houses), Trecastle (6 houses), Devynock (14 houses) and Llangorse (6 houses).
 Work on 7 houses being built by private enterprise was also commenced during the year.

Brecon Rural District

Rural Housing Survey. This was continued during the year. The following figures show the position at the end of the year.

Work during the year:-

<u>Number inspected</u>	<u>Category</u>				
	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5.</u>
798	132	170	145	178	173
<u>Previously inspected</u>					
109	14	24	28	31	12
<u>Totals 907</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>185</u>

Housing Act 1949. Two applications for grant under this Act were considered but were not approved by the Ministry of Health.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. Considerable changes in the legislature governing the production of milk occurred by the coming into operation on October 1st, 1949 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944. Briefly under this Act the supervision of milk production on farms now passes to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and local authorities are left with the control of distributors.

Number of samples taken during the year.....136.
 Number of samples satisfactory.....94.
 Number of samples unsatisfactory.....42.
 The results of all these samples were sent to the Milk Sub Committee of Ministry at Brecon.

Sixteen samples of milk were submitted during the year for the presence of tuberculosis and all proved to be negative

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat is distributed from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Depot in Brecon.

Food Condemned. The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed.....30½ lbs.

Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....15.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....37.
 Number of samples taken, all returned as Grade 1.....4.
 There are 7 premises registered for sale of ice cream.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections made.....19.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made.....2.
 There was one premises registered for sale of fried fish.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year:-

Measles.....14 cases.
Scarlet Fever.....13 cases.
Puerperal Pyrexia.....1 case.
Whooping Cough.....2 cases.

As will be seen no severe epidemic of infectious disease was experienced during the year. Two of the cases of scarlet fever were removed to Merthyr Isolation Hospital, the remainder being isolated at home.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases.

The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....26.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....11.
Number of cases removed from register.
 (a) Deaths.....2.
 (b) Left district.....0.
 (c) Disease arrested.....6.
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....29.

The number of cases notified in recent years is shown below:-

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
12.	9.	6.	9.	7.	4.	9.	5.	8.	7.	11.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.